

Resolution Number 9 2009 Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly

"SUPER MAJORITY MEMORIAL FOR CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY"

1 **WHEREAS**, the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted “to direct the Task Force for ELCA
2 Studies on Sexuality specifically to address and to make recommendations to the 2009 Churchwide
3 Assembly on changes to any church policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the
4 rosters of this church;” and
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6 **WHEREAS**, the Constitutional and Legal Committee of the ELCA Church Council recommended
7 that “any motion to come before this Churchwide Assembly regarding changes in this church’s
8 current policy and practice for the rostering of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, associates in
9 ministry, and deaconesses shall require a two-thirds vote by the assembly for adoption;” and
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11 **WHEREAS**, the ELCA Church Council voted 19-10 to delete this provision and is recommending
12 rules of procedure for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly which would require only a simple majority
13 vote to change ELCA standards to allow pastors and other rostered leaders to be in same-sex sexual
14 relationships; and
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16 **WHEREAS**, a two-thirds majority vote is usually required for major decisions including the
17 adoption of an ELCA social statement and for amendments to the ELCA constitution and bylaws;
18 and
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20 **WHEREAS**, a decision to change church teaching and policy to allow pastors and other rostered
21 leaders to be in same-sex sexual relationships holds the potential to be very divisive in ELCA synods
22 and congregations and to cause both membership and financial losses for synods and congregations;
23 and
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25 **WHEREAS**, the ELCA is seeking ways to make decisions on a consensus basis rather than by close
26 votes; and
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28 **WHEREAS**, a super majority vote — such as a two-thirds majority — would require an
29 overwhelming majority of Churchwide Assembly voting members to make such a significant change
30 to church teaching and practice; and
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32 **WHEREAS**, we appreciate the efforts that have gone forward in drafting the proposed changes in
33 ministry standards; to be faithful to the family that is the ELCA a change of this magnitude warrants
34 careful consideration; therefore be it
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36 **RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Washington/Idaho Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA
37 Churchwide Assembly that we oppose any changes in this church’s current policy and practice for
38 the rostering of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, and deaconesses on
39 less than a two thirds majority vote by the Churchwide Assembly.

Submitted by,
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